



Volunteers-In-Parks Newsletter

Planning for Park's Future Begins to Take Shape



A planning goal is to ensure that all park visitors have ample opportunities to learn about the park's history and significance.

Valley Forge National Historical Park is the place where General George Washington and 12,000 hungry, ill, and exhausted soldiers endured every kind of hardship because they believed in the promise of freedom. A century later, the land was set aside as a park to commemorate the bravery, determination and endurance of the members of the Continental Army and their fellow Americans who risked everything in the attempt to gain independence.

Today the park is the place where hundreds of thousands of people come with their families

and friends to walk the grounds, learn about this compelling story, and enjoy a connection to an essential part of our nation's history. They stroll, bicycle, picnic and fish among 3,500 acres of beautiful open space, tall grass meadows, forests and waterways.

The park is at the center of the busiest crossroads in Pennsylvania – a burgeoning suburb that is a highly desirable place to live, work, and shop. Everyone in the region has a stake in preserving a quality of life that now is threatened as sprawl overtakes the Pennsylvania countryside.

Both the historic and contemporary qualities of the park are the foundation of planning for the future. How do we best preserve the precious historic resources, share the essential educational messages and commemorate the meaning of the encampment? How do we preserve the open space, natural resources and scenic values that are so beloved and that are essential for wildlife? How does the National Park Service work with neighboring communities to plan the future?

How can a *General Management Plan* process develop the answers to these questions? Working with the public, we are now at the mid-point of a two-year planning process that will result in basic guidelines for the quality and kinds of experiences visitors to the park will have; the development of new facilities for visitors; the preservation and management of cultural and natural resources; the treatment of the park's tour roads and the public roads within and surrounding the park; and other important decisions.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to imagine and implement an exciting and sustainable future for Valley Forge. Hundreds of members of the public have shared insights, concerns and support for this remarkable national park by attending public workshops, writing letters and e-mails, and in conversations.

Continuing thoughtful participation during the final year of planning and decision-making is essential. If you haven't been involved so far, catch up by checking the park website at www.nps.gov/vafo and click on "GMP." You also can call Deirdre Gibson at 610-783-1047.

Wayne Rotary Club's Adopt-a-Building Program

In 2002, Ernest C. Eadeh, a Main Line developer and Rotary Member, approached Valley Forge NHP's Superintendent, Arthur Stewart, with a proposal to assist with the park's backlog of deferred maintenance on historic structures. Superintendent Stewart asked Tim Long, historic architect, to work with Mr. Eadeh and identify candidate structures for the Rotary Club's program.

In the summer of 2002, the agricultural equipment shed and stable in the Knox's Quarters farm complex was chosen as the first Rotary Club project. Mr. Eadeh sought donations for paint and materials. His firm's construction crew made some of the more difficult repairs on the two buildings and further prepared the buildings for volunteers to paint. The Devon based Prudential Fox &

Roach Realtors partnered with the Rotary Club on this phase of the work.

In 2003, Mr. Eadeh was convinced that the Rotary Club could engage other partners in the program. He enlisted his daughter, Heather Eadeh, a Penn State alumna, to entice the local Penn State Alumni Chapter

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Message from the Superintendent

I am pleased to present the inaugural issue of the park-wide volunteer newsletter for Valley Forge National Historical Park. Individual divisions and branches within the park have put together newsletters in the past, but only for their own volunteers. It is essential that we initiate this communication tool to improve the volunteer program at the park.

This newsletter will be published quarterly. I encourage everyone, volunteers and staff, to contribute articles to this publication. Please send articles to Michelle_Ortwein@nps.gov, or call her at 610-783-1044.

I would also like to announce that Michelle Ortwein has been named the park-wide volunteer (VIP) coordinator at Valley Forge National Historical Park. She will take over the duties Paulette Mark had as park-wide coordinator. Michelle looks forward to working with the volunteers to make their time and work here even more enjoyable. She plans to work with park staff and volunteers to recruit new volunteers, create a web/internet presence, and more. Each division will continue to have a volunteer coordinator(s) who will work directly with volunteers. Please contact Michelle if you have any suggestions for improving the volunteer program at Valley Forge.

- Arthur L. Stewart



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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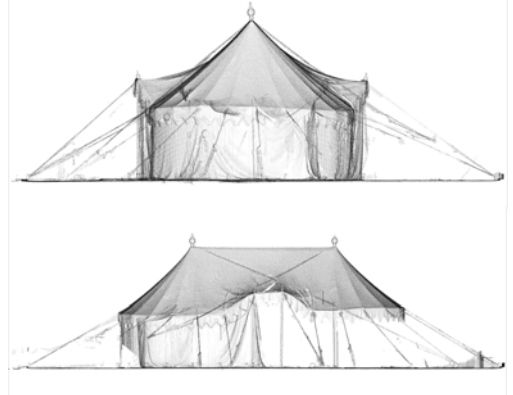
The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Tending to Washington's Tent

On October 6, 2003, Valley Forge NHP museum staff and conservator Loreen Finkelstein dismantled Washington's sleeping tent that had been on exhibit in the Welcome Center for over 20 years. In 2003, the park and the American Revolution Center at Valley Forge (ARC) received a matching grant from Save America's Treasures to perform conservation work on the tent. The tent was transferred to Ms. Finkelstein's conservation laboratory for assessment of work and for conservation. She will remove the interior lining, installed in 1978, which has caused stress to the original tent fabric. The tent will be cleaned and tears will be repaired.

The final phase of the project will be to design and construct an exhibit support and exhibit case. The conservation work will take about two years to complete. It is planned for the tent to be re-exhibited at Valley Forge NHP in the new American Revolution Center museum building, scheduled to open in late 2006/ early 2007.

Removing the tent from exhibit received a lot of media attention, including an article on the front page of the Philadelphia Inquirer! For a copy of the article, see <http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/fro nt/6949377.htm>



Back section and side section of tent in Auto Cad drawing, developed by Texas Tech University.

In September, a team from Texas Tech University came to document the tent. They recorded the shape, size, and dimensions of the tent by scanning it with a laser beam. See some of their work at http://www.arch.ttu.edu/Architecture/Faculty/Louden_E/ and click on "George Washington Tent zip file"; or <http://www.arch.ttu.edu/arc/> to see work Texas Tech has done at other sites, including the Statue of Liberty.

The American Revolution Center at Valley Forge must raise \$286,000 to match the grant from "Save America's Treasures" for the restoration work to continue. To make a donation to help save Washington's tent, visit www.valleyformuseum.org.



After bringing the tent to Valley Forge, Dr. Burk pitched the tent outside Washington Memorial Chapel and took this picture, circa 1909-1911. Photo courtesy American Revolution Center at Valley Forge.

In Memorium



In November Valley Forge lost a valuable and precious resource. **Brian Lambert**, Natural Resource Management Specialist since the early 1980's, passed away following a brief illness. Brian LOVED Valley Forge! Brian knew Valley Forge better than anyone else. Immeasurable hours were spent in the field monitoring and observing the resource. He was out there in the heat of the summer, the cold of the winter, and, yes, even during the torrential down pours of hurricane Floyd. He spent countless hours researching, checking documents and maps, and talking with other professionals. Early on he recognized the valuable relationship between the natural and cultural resources and relentlessly presented his case, ultimately helping to shape today's much more balanced thinking and direction.

He worked closely with numerous environmental organizations that shared the same interest in the protection of the resources both within and outside the park. He routinely attended meetings of local zoning and planning commissions promoting controlled development and where necessary improvements to their stormwater management regulations, all to help preserve and protect Valley Creek, another of his real loves, and ultimately the park. Brian was a professional. He was the recipient of several awards for his hard work and dedication to protecting the resource, both from NPS and outside the Service. He was one of the really good guys! He is and will be missed for a long, long time.

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On November 19, 2003, veteran park volunteer **Joseph Haenn** passed away after an extended battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Linda, an employee of the U.S. Forest Service.

Joe joined the staff of Valley Forge NHP in April 1995 as a volunteer in the Branch of Museum Services. Working with museum staff, he was instrumental in cataloging the park's historic photograph collection, improving collection-related documentation records, and assisting park staff with annual inventory and exhibition projects. During the latter years of his service, Joe offered his time to both the administration division and museum services.

Valley Forge NHP held a special place in Joe's life. Park staff attending his funeral were touched to find Joe proudly wearing his volunteer name badge. He brought devout dedication and a sense of humor to all he did for Valley Forge.

People News

Congratulations to **Jeff Kangas** (Maintenance Division) who was selected as the Chief of Maintenance at Valley Forge NHP. Jeff has worked at Valley Forge NHP for 4 1/2 years. He has worked in federal service 23 years, including 3 years in the military, 10 years with the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and 5 1/2 years as a Foreman in Yosemite National Park.

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Congratulations to **Michelle Ortwein** who graduated from the National Park Services Mid-Level Intake Program in August 2003. The program was a mid-level management leadership training program with 19 NPS employees participating within the NPS. Currently, Michelle serves as Acting Chief of Interpretation and Museum Services.

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Congratulations to **Paulette Mark** who retired on January 16, 2004, after working 20 years in the National Park Service. We wish her well in her new adventures!

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Welcome to **Connie Silverman** and **Barbara Wynn** who started volunteering in Curatorial operations this fall. They are working on a project to digitize 1,000 historic photographs. At the end of the project, all digital images will be accessible through the internet for researchers and the public. The park received a \$5,000 Volunteer Senior Ranger Corps grant to fund supplies and equipment for the project. The grant is designed to help National Parks recruit and retain senior and youth volunteers.

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We send best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Keith Sherman**, Laborer at the park, who suffered a stroke on April 29 and is currently in rehabilitation.

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Name This Newsletter Contest

Help us name this newsletter devoted to Valley Forge NHP volunteers!

The name on the front of this newsletter is temporary until we find the right one. You can help us. A special prize from the Encampment Store will be presented to the person who suggests the winning name!

Submit your name suggestions via email to: Michelle_Ortwein@nps.gov

Or by mail to:
Michelle Ortwein
Valley Forge National Historical Park
P.O. Box 953
Valley Forge, PA 19482

Star and Teak Moving On to New Assignments



May 13, 2004 was a day filled with mixed emotions for many of the Park's volunteers and staff as they said goodbye to two beautiful horses. Because an independent evaluation of the park's law enforcement program found the Mounted Patrol program was not being used as a law enforcement tool, the program was cut and both horses needed to be relocated. Star, an 11 year old, arrived here at Valley Forge in March 2003, and Teak, a 15 year old, arrived in July 2003. Both horses came from the Philadelphia Mounted Patrol.

After a two-month search, Star was sent to the New York Police Department, and Teak went to the Harrisburg Police Department. Both horses continue to participate in the Mounted Patrol program at each location. Star is undergoing an evaluation and re-orientation program prior to being assigned to a police officer. Teak is working with Deb Ewing of

the Harrisburg Bureau of Police. Both horses have very good homes and appear to be doing well. Although these horses will be greatly missed, they will make an impact on many people and will be able to continue what they have been trained to do.



Above: Teak with Officer Deb Ewing of the Harrisburg Bureau of Police patrolling near City Island Park.

Left: Star on May 13 as he arrived at the NYPD Headquarters, Lower West Side of Manhattan. The NYPD flag is above his head.

Boy Scouts of America: 2004 Valley Forge Pilgrimage

On February 14, 2004 Valley Forge National Historical Park hosted the Boy Scouts of America Cradle of Liberty Council for its annual pilgrimage. This year the historical focus featured Brigadier General William Alexander, also known as "Lord Stirling." Like some other high ranking officers, Alexander (with his staff including future President James Monroe) was able to find a little more comfort by living in a pre-existing stone building: the home of Rev. William Currie, a member of the valley's community. General Alexander, a division commander, quelled a mutiny by alerting Commander-in-Chief



William Alexander, a.k.a. Lord Stirling

George Washington to the "Conway Cabal." Scouts learned more about this through a series of eight stations between the park Welcome Center and the Memorial Arch, between 10:00am and 2:00pm.

The stations included: Biography of William Stirling, Engineering, Conway Cabal, Oneida Indian Nation, Civilian and Military Populations Intermingled, Reverend William Currie, Agriculture, and Preservation. Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with this program. We could not have had such a successful program without you!



**Saturday,
September 18, 2004
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Over the past several years, Valley Forge National Historical Park has participated in National Public Lands Day, a day set aside each year for the public to engage in stewardship activities on federally owned lands throughout the country. The event is the largest volunteer hands-on effort of its kind in the country. Participants lend a hand to care for and improve the very lands they use for hiking, biking, climbing, swimming, exploring, picnicing, or just plain relaxing.

National Public Lands Day needs the strength of individuals and resources of corporations and organizations to make it a success. **As an individual**, you can give your time and energy for a day of work, fun and learning on public lands. **As an organization or corporation**, you can rally your employees to become volunteers, sponsor a project at Valley Forge NHP or come out for a day of learning and fun. Read the article on the next page to learn about last year's event. To learn how you can get involved in volunteering please contact the park VIP Coordinator at 610-783-1045.

Volunteers Lend Helping Hands on National Public Lands Day, 2003

More than 100 volunteers from area non-profit organizations, corporations and universities lent their talents and skills to help make National Public Lands Day a huge success at Valley Forge National Historical Park on Saturday September 20, 2003.

National Public Lands Day, now in its 10th year, commemorates the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). From 1933 to 1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt recruited a civilian army to conserve our nation's natural resources.

Known as "Roosevelt's Tree Army" more than two million Americans planted over three billion trees, spent countless hours fighting fires, surveyed and mapped lands and lakes, wired towns, and built lodges, museums, roads, etc.

This year on National Public Lands Day the Corp's magnificent heritage of stewardship was handed down to volunteers across the country. Valley Forge National Historical Park was one of 520 public lands nationwide where volunteers



Volunteers with Smokey Bear on National Public Lands Day, 2003.

participated to lend their hands. Their efforts were exceptional! Here are a few ways that volunteers helped at Valley Forge this year:

- Painted 3 exterior restrooms
- Mulched flower beds at the Welcome

Center

- Rehabilitated ½ mile of trails
- Planted 15 trees along Valley Creek
- Removed invasive shrubs from one of the park entrance signs and replaced them with native shrubs
- Picked up 20 bags of litter

Wayne Rotary Club (continued from page 1)

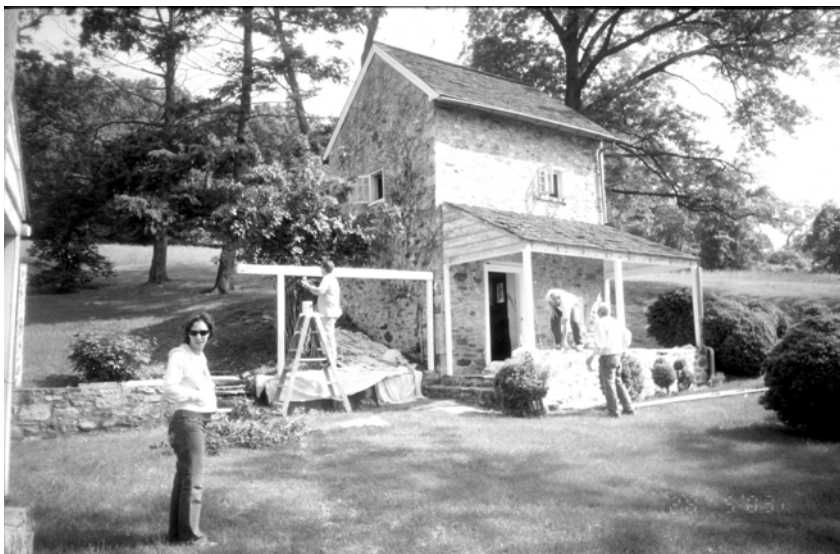
to participate. Heather organized and ran the event, which resulted in the general preparation and painting of a small barn on the site of General Lord Stirling's Quarters. Once again, Mr. Eadeh provided members of his construction crew to accomplish some of

the challenging repairs prior to the Alumni Chapter's work.

In the same year two other buildings were repaired and repainted by the Wayne Rotary Club. The Workizer-Thropp House, opposite

the Washington's Headquarters complex on Route 23, was the first candidate for attention. The second was the Port Kennedy Quarry Building opposite the Kennedy Supplee Mansion Restaurant. Once again, Mr. Eadeh, who spearheads the Adopt-a Building program, provided members of his construction crew for heavy and specialized tasks. Local businesses also pitched in with expertise and supplies. For the Workizer-Thropp project, Sherwin Williams in Wayne donated paint, brushes, and caulk. Steve Shreiner of Shreiner Tree Care of Bryn Mawr, volunteered to take down a tree precariously leaning toward the building.

The Wayne Rotary Club intends to continue this valuable volunteer assistance into future years. In addition to tackling other buildings, they will keep close watch on the buildings already treated and provide cyclic maintenance to keep them as well preserved as when they first applied their efforts.



Penn. State Alumni Chapter of Chester County working with the Wayne Rotary Club at small barn next to Stirling's Quarters, 2003



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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The "Volunteers-in-Parks Newsletter" is a quarterly publication of Valley Forge National Historical Park.

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Volunteers Needed

Gardening Work at Welcome Center: We are looking for volunteers to help with gardening and maintenance of the flowerbeds around the Welcome Center. The work will be scheduled every 3 to 4 weeks on weekdays. If you would like to help, please contact Michelle Ortwein at 610-783-1044, or send email to michelle_ortwein@nps.gov.

20% Discount in Encampment Store

Don't forget – all volunteers (and NPS staff) receive a 20% discount on all merchandise purchased in the Encampment Store located in the Welcome Center. Just say you're a volunteer when paying at the register.

National Trails Day®



June 5, 2004

Tons of fun for the whole family! **National Trails Day, Saturday June 5, 2004** is a national celebration that gives participants of all ages a positive trail experience and educates them about the many pleasures of trails as well as their health benefits. Try out the latest in outdoor gear, see exciting new product demonstrations, take part in one of our educational clinics, get advice from experts, or visit the exhibits of some of the biggest names in outdoor adventures, environmental/conservation and health. In honor of National Trails Day, on Sunday, June 6 the public is invited to meet at Betzwood Picnic Area at 9:00 a.m. to participate in hands-on trails preservation projects followed by a donated lunch courtesy of Eastern Mountain Sports sponsors. If you are interested in participating in the trails projects on Sunday, June 6, 2004 please register in-advance by contacting the park V-I-P Coordinator at 610-783-1044